Exhibit C Plea Transcript

(The following took place in chambers.)

THE CLERK: U.S.A. versus Lorenzo Nichols.

MS. CALDWELL: Leslie Caldwell for the government.

MR. SHERIDAN: Peter Sheridan.

MR. VOGELMAN: Lawrence A. Vogelman for the defendant.

THE CLERK: Plea agreement marked Court Exhibit 1.

MR. VOGELMAN: I think the first thing we have to do is the waiver of indictment before we --

THE COURT: All right.

Mr. Nichols, we really have a separate bundle of rights that that you are giving up that I have to go through with you with separately.

The first of these rights deals with respect to how criminal charges are filed against you which you are waiving, and the second deals with the rights that you would have if you went to trial after the charges against you were filed.

And I have to go through them with you one-by-one with respect to your rights to be sure that you understand what rights you are giving up by waiving your right to an indictment by a grand jury and by pleading guilty.

And I also have to be sure with respect to your plea of guilty that you are guilty of the crime to which you are pleading guilt and that you know what can happen to you as a result of that plea of guilty. That is, what the maximum sentence that can be imposed as a result of your plea of

guilty.

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If you have any questions as we go along, if you don't understand anything that I say, don't hesitate to interrupt me. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Do you understand what I just said?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Swear the defendant.

(Defendant sworn.)

THE COURT: You understand now you have taken an oath in which you have sworn to answer my questions truthfully.

That means if you should lie and make any false statement you would be subject to prosecution for perjury.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Can you tell me how old you are.

THE DEFENDANT: Thirty.

THE COURT: What is the extent of your education and schooling.

THE DEFENDANT: Ninth grade.

THE COURT: And are you presently or have you recently been under the care of a physician or psychiatrist?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: In the past 24 hours have you taken any narcotics, medicines or pills or drunk any alcholoic beverages.

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THE COURT: Does he understand the rights he will be 1 2 waiving by waiving his right to indictment by grand jury and by 3 pleading guilty? MR. VOGELMAN: Yes, he does. 4 5 THE COURT: Is he capable of understanding the nature 6 of these proceedings? 7 MR. VOGELMAN: He is. THE COURT: Do you have any doubt as to his competence 8 9 to plead at this time? 10 MR. VOGELMAN: No. 11 THE COURT: Or to waive his right to indictment by grand jury? 12 13 MR. VOGELMAN: No, I do not. 14 THE COURT: Have you advised him of the maximum 15 sentence and fine that can be imposed as a result of this 16 guilty plea? 17 MR. VOGELMAN: I have. 18 THE COURT: Have you, Mr. Nichols, had an opportunity to discuss this case with Mr. Voqelman and are you satisfied to 19 20 have him represent you here? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 21 22 THE COURT: Have you received a copy of this 23 superseding information which contains the charges that the 24 government wishes to file against you? 25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: I'm going to read it to you. And it reads:

From at least July 1985 until on or about August 11, 1988, the defendant Lorenzo Nichols -- I'm going to leave out all the also knowns -- headed an organization of individuals who associated together for the purpose of engaging in the business of narcotics trafficking. The goal of the organization, which will be referred to here as the Nichols Enterprise, was to earn large amounts of money through trafficking in wholesale quantitites of heroin, cocaine and-cocaine base (crack), primarily in Jamaica, Queens, New York.

The Nichols Enterprise constituted a quote, enterprise as defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 1961(4). This enterprise engaged in, and its activities affected interstate and foreign commerce by, among other things, the sale in New York State of controlled substances that had been brought into New York from places outside thereof.

In furtherance of the goals of the Nichols Enterprise, Nichols and other members of the entries engaged in acts of violence, including murder.

Count 1.

On or about November 11, 1986, within the Eastern

District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant Lorenzo

Nichols, for the purpose of maintaining and increasing his

position in the Nichols Enterprise, an enterprise engaged in

racketeering activity, did knowingly and intentionally command, induce, procure, aid and abet another to murder Isaac Bolden, in violation of New York State Penal Law Sections 125.25 and 20.00.

Count 2.

On or about December 20, 1987, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant Lorenzo Nichols, for the purpose of maintaining and increasing his position in the Nichols Enterprise, an enterprise engaged in racketeering activity, did knowingly and intentionally command, induce, procure, aid and abet others to murder Myrtle Horsham, also known as Myesha, in violation of the New York State Penal Law Sections 125.25 and 20.00.

Do you understand this charge?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Have you discussed it with Mr. Vogelman?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Now, you see this on this information? It is signed by in this case the Acting U.S. Attorney. Do you see that signature there.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: This charge is a serious charge under our law. It's a felony under the laws of the United States. And it could not normally be brought without your consent simply under the signature of the U.S. Attorney or somebody he

1 authorizes to sign this document. 2 Do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 3 THE COURT: Under our system of law, before a citizen 4 5 can be charged with a serious crime such as this, the United States attorney has to present the evidence that he has before 6 7 a grand jury which is composed of 23 people from the community, 8 at least 12 of whom must conclude that there is probable cause 9 to believe that the person whom the United States Attorney 10 wishes to charge with a crime, is in fact guilty of that 11 crime. 12 Do you understand that? 13 THE DEFENDANT: 14 THE COURT: The reason for this requirement is that --15 strike that. 16 The purpose of the grand jury then is to act as a check on the power of the prosecutor. 17 18 Do you understand that? 19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 20 THE COURT: Because for someone to go through the 21 burden, the expense, the trauma of defending against a crime is 22 a serious matter and we don't believe under our system of law 23 that that decision should rest solely with the prosecutor. 24 Do you understand that? 25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1	THE COURT: What you're doing by giving up your right
2	to an indictment by a grand jury is you are giving up this
3	check on the power of the prosecutor and you are letting him do
4	what he otherwise couldn't do, which is file these charges
5	against you solely under his own signature.
6	Do you understand that?
7	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
8	THE COURT: If you did not waive your right to an
9	indictment by a grand jury, the U.S. Attorney could present
10	these charges to a grand jury. The grand jury could choose-to
11	indict you or not indict you.
12	Do you understand that?
13	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
14	THE COURT: If you waive your right to an indictment
15	by a grand jury, the case will proceed against you in exactly
16	the same way as if you had been indicted by a grand jury.
17	Do you understand that?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
19	THE COURT: And do you understand now what it is to
20	waive your right to an indictment by a grand jury?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
22	THE COURT: Do you wish to waive your right to an
23	indictment by a grand jury?
24	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
25	THE COURT: Mr. Vogelman, do you know of any reason

why the defendant should not waive his right to an indictment 1 2 by a grand jury? 3 MR. VOGELMAN: No, your Honor. THE COURT: Have you discussed with him his decision 4 5 to waive his right to an indictment by grand jury? MR. VOGELMAN: Yes. 6 7 THE COURT: Have you discussed with Mr. Vogelman your 8 decision to waive your right to indictment by a grand jury? 9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: All right. 10 I find that the waiver is knowingly and voluntarily 11 made and I accept it. The clerk will file the information. 12 13 MR. SHERIDAN: The record should reflect the defendant 14 is executing the written waiver of indictment form. 15 THE COURT: All right. 16 The next set of rights that we deal with are the rights that you would have if you went to trial. These are the 17 so-called trial rights that you give up. 18 And the first thing that you have to understand is 19 that you don't have to plead guilty. That is, under our law, 20 21 even if you are guilty of the crime with which you are charged, 22 even if you believe that you are guilty, the government is 23 still required to prove that you are guilty. 24 And you can force the government to prove that you are

guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If the government fails to

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1	prove that you are guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, the
2	obligation of the jury would be to return a verdict of not
3	guilty even though you may be guilty.
4	Do you understand what I just said?
5	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
6	THE COURT: So the first thing you have to understand
7	is that you do not have to plead guilty.
8	Do you understand that?
9	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
10	THE COURT: If you plead guilty, as I said a moment
11	ago, you would be entitled to a speedy and public trial by jury
12	with the assistance of counsel on the charges contained in this
13	superseding information.
14	Do you understand that?
15	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
16	THE COURT: We were scheduled to pick a jury on Monday
17	on the charges that are presently pending against you.
18	Do you understand that?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
20	THE COURT: At the trial you would be presumed to be
21	innocent and the government would have to overcome that
22	presumption and prove you guilty by competent evidence and
23	beyond a reasonable doubt, as I said to you.
24	And you would not have to prove that you are
25	innocent. And if the government failed to prove you are guilty

by competent evidence and beyond a reasonable doubt, the jury would have the duty under the circumstances to find you not guilty.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: What you are doing by pleading guilty is you are relieving the government of the burden that they would have of proving that you are guilty and you are admitting your guilt.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: In the course of the trial, if you went to trial, the witnesses for the government would have to come to the courtroom in which you have been in on a number of occasions, they would testify from the witness box, right near where I sit, in your presence, and your lawyer would have the right to ask questions of these witness, what we refer to as cross-examination. He would have the opportunity to object to evidence offered by the government and to offer evidence on your behalf.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And what you're doing by pleading guilty is you give up these rights which we have sometimes referred to as the right to confront the witnesses against you.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And at the trial you, too, would have the right to testify if you chose to do so. You could not, however, be forced to testify as a witness by the government. Under our law the defendant in a criminal case cannot be forced to take the witness stand at his own trial and say anything that can be used to show that he's guilty of the crime with which he is charged.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And if you were to exercise this right, which we sometimes refer to as the privilege against self-incrimination, I would instruct the jury that they could not hold that against you.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: In a few minutes I am going to ask you to tell me in your own words what it is that you did so that I can satisfy myself that you are guilty of the crime to which you are pleading guilty. In answering my questions you will be saying things which show that you are guilty of the crime to which you are pleading guilty, and you will be giving up the right that I just described, which is the right not to say anything which can be used to show you are guilty of the crime

1	for which you are charged.
2	Do you understand that?
3	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
4	THE COURT: If you plead guilty and I accept your plea
5	you will be giving up your constitutional rights to a trial and
6	the other rights that I just discussed. There will be no
7	further trial of any kind and no right to an appeal. I will
8	simply enter a judgment of guilt on the basis of your guilty
9	plea.
10	Do you understand that?
11	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
12	THE COURT: Are you willing to give up your
13	constitutional rights to a trial and the other rights that I
14	just discussed?
15	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
16	THE COURT: All right.
17	I have read the superseding information to you. You
18	have indicated that you discussed the charges in that document
19	with your lawyer and you understand the charges.
20	Do you know the maximum sentence and fine that can be
21	imposed as a result of your plea of guilty?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
23	THE COURT: What is your understanding?
24	THE DEFENDANT: Maximum sentence?
25	THE COURT: Yes.

1 THE DEFENDANT: Life. 2 THE COURT: And in addition there is a period of five 3 years supervised release that I also must impose. And what 4 that means is that if after you are released from whatever sentence I impose, you violate the conditions of your release, 5 6 you would go back to jail not just to complete the original 7 sentence that I imposed, but the original sentence plus whatever period of supervised release I impose. 8 9 Do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 10 THE COURT: And you would not get credit toward that 11 supervised release time that you would have to serve by virtue 12 13 of any time that you already had been out on parole. 14 Do you understand that? 15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 16 THE COURT: In addition, the maximum fine is a quarter 17 of a million dollars. 18 Do you understand that? 19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 20 THE COURT: Finally, a 50 dollars special assessment. Do you understand that? 21 22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 23 THE COURT: What we have just gone over applies to 24 Count 1 and to Count 2. Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1	THE COURT: Do you have any questions you would like
2	to ask me about this charge or your rights, or anything else
3	relating to this matter?
4	THE DEFENDANT: No.
5	THE COURT: Are you ready to plead?
6	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
7	THE COURT: Do you know of any reason why the
8	defendant should not plead guilty?
9	MR. VOGELMAN: No, I do not, Judge.
10	THE COURT: Are you aware of any legal defense that
11	could be successfully asserted to the charges contained in this
12	superseding information?
13	MR. VOGELMAN: None.
14	THE COURT: How do you plead to Count 1 of the
15	superseding indictment, guilty or not guilty?
16	THE DEFENDANT: Guilt.
17	THE COURT: How do you plead to Count 2 of the
18	superseding information, guilty or not guilty?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.
20	THE COURT: Are you making this plea of guilty
21	voluntarily and of your own free will?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
23	THE COURT: Has anyone threatened or forced you to
24	plead guilty?
25	THE DEFENDANT: No.

	THE COURT: The document there that has been marked
	Court Exhibit 1, do you have the original now?
	MS. CALDWELL: Yes, he does.
	THE COURT: This is a copy of the agreement which I
	understand that you and your attorney have entered into with
	the government.
	Is that your signature on that agreement?
	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
:	THE COURT: Did you read that agreements before you
	signed it.
	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
	THE COURT: Does that agreement accurately reflect
	your understanding of the agreements that you have entered into
3	with the government?
	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
	THE COURT: All right.
	You will hold onto that document.
	MS. CALDWELL: I will, Judge.
	THE COURT: Other than whatever promises the
	government made in that agreement, if any, has anyone made any
	other promise that caused you to plead guilty?
	THE DEFENDANT: No.
	THE COURT: Has anyone made any promise to you as to
	what your sentence will be?
	THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: All right. 1 2 With respect to Count 1 of the superseding 3 information, can you tell me in your own words what it is that you did with respect to the charge that on or about 4 November 11, 1986, for the purpose of maintaining and 5 6 increasing your position in what has been described as the 7 Nichols Enterpirse, you did knowingly and intentionally 8 command, induce, procure, aid and abet another to murder Isaac 9 Bolden? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: First of all, who is Isaac Bolden in 11 relation to this Nichols Enterprise? 12 13 THE DEFENDANT: He's a person that robbed us. 14 THE COURT: Okay. And what did he rob you of? 15 THE DEFENDANT: How much money? 16 THE COURT: Money, narcotics? 17 THE DEFENDANT: Money and jewelry. 18 THE COURT: What did you do as a result of that? 19 THE DEFENDANT: For the robbery I didn't do anything. 20 But afterwards, you know, he told me who was involved in the 21 robbery. Then he went back and told the people what he had told me. And in other words he tried -- he jeopardized the 22 23 people that was with me by telling the people that he had told 24 me that they was down with the robbery. And then that's when I

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did something.

19 1 THE COURT: What did you do? 2 THE DEFENDANT: I order his death. 3 THE COURT: I assume you didn't carry it out yourself, 4 did you. THE DEFENDANT: 5 No. THE COURT: Who carried it out? 6 7 THE DEFENDANT: Associate. THE COURT: In the indictment they refer to the 8 9 Nichols Enterprise as an organization of individuals associated 10 together for the purpose of engaging in the business of narcotic trafficking. 11 12 Was there such an organization? Was there a group of 13 people of which you were the head who were associated together 14 for the purpose of engaging in narcotic trafficking? 15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 16 THE COURT: You have to go over this a little slowly 17 for me, why it is that you ordered the murder. It wasn't quite 18 clear to me when you said it. 19 He participated in robbing you and other members of 20 your organization of money and jewelry? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 22 THE COURT: And then what did he tell you? 23 THE DEFENDANT: He participated in robbing us, but

THE COURT: Right. You mean you didn't know when he

then I found out he had -- he was involved in the robbery.

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told you himself?

THE DEFENDANT: No. Somebody else told me. Then he verify that he was involved in the robbery. I know him for years. And so I told him, just don't worry about what you did. Just go ahead and point me towards the people that was with you.

And he did do that. He pointed me toward the people that was with him. And then he turned around and point the people toward me.

THE COURT: I see. So that they presumably would either be going after you or interrupting your efforts to go after them?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: All right.

Are there any other questions I should ask with respect to this count?

MS. CALDWELL: No, there aren't.

THE COURT: All right.

Count 2 says that on or about December 20, 1987, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, for the purpose of maintaining and increasing your position in the Nichols Enterprise, you did knowingly and intentionally command, induce, procure, aid and abet others to murder Myrtle Horsham, also known a Myesha.

Who is Myrtle Horsham in relation to this Nichols

1	organization or enterprise?
2	THE DEFENDANT: What she was to me?
3	THE COURT: To the organization.
4	THE DEFENDANT: She was a person who held money and
5	held drugs. She hold drugs and money.
6	THE COURT: Why was her death ordered?
7	THE DEFENDANT: It was some money had came up
8	missing, you know. She had turned around and spent it on
9	another person. In other words, the money came up missing.
10	She had spent it on a dude. But she was my girlfriend. She
11	took my money and spent it on another person.
12	THE COURT: Okay.
13	THE DEFENDANT: And that's the way.
14	THE COURT: As a result what did you do?
15	THE DEFENDANT: I once I found out, you know, then
16	I order her death.
17	THE COURT: It was carried out by your associate?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
19	THE COURT: Was one of the purposes of this to teach
20	other people in the organization a lesson about not stealing
21	from you?
22	THE DEFENDANT: It wasn't just the stealing. It was
23	the fact that she was my girl and she took my money and spent
24	it on another person.
25	MR. VOGELMAN: Can I have a second, Judge?

1	THE COURT: Yes.
2	(Mr.Vogelman confers privately with defendant.)
3	THE COURT: Was there any other reason other than your
4	desire other than jealousy, shall I say?
5	THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. Because in other words she made
6	me look bad in front of people who was within the organization.
7	THE COURT: Then undermind your position as the head
8	of the organization?
9	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
10	THE COURT: Are there any other questions I should
11 .	ask?
12	MS. CALDWELL: No, your Honor.
13	THE COURT: All right.
14	Based on the information given to me I find that the
15	defendant is acting voluntarily, that he fully understands his
16	rights and the consequences of his plea, and that there is a
17	factual basis for the plea with respect to both Counts 1 and 2
18	of this information, and therefore, I accept the plea of
19	guilty.
20	Probation will set a date for sentence.
21	MS. CALDWELL: There a couple of other matter.
22	First, we would move that the minutes of this
23	proceeding be sealed and also that the plea itself be filed
24	under seal, the charging instrument to be filed under seal.
25	THE COURT: All right.

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              Have you prepared the --
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              MS. CALDWELL: I will bring a sealing envelope down.
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               THE COURT: Rose will take care of that. Take my
            I don't want it laying around here.
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               MS. CALDWELL:
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              THE COURT: All right.
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